

BRFSS Brief

Number 2021-18

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the New York State Department of Health. The BRFSS is designed to provide information on behaviors, risk factors, and utilization of preventive services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death among the noninstitutionalized, civilian population aged 18 years and older.

Breast Cancer Screening

New York State Adult Females, 2019

Introduction and Key Findings

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among females in New York State (NYS), with approximately 16,500 new cases and 2,500 deaths from the disease each year.¹ Risk of breast cancer increases with age and varies across racial groups. White females are more likely than black females to be diagnosed with breast cancer but are less likely to have breast cancer diagnosed at an advanced stage and to die from the disease.²

Screening for breast cancer can increase the likelihood of identifying cancer at an early stage when treatment is most successful. Females 50 to 74 years of age should be screened with a mammogram every two years. Females 40 to 49 years of age, those with a family history or other risk factors for breast cancer, and those who have any symptoms or changes in their breasts should talk to their health care provider about what screening schedule is right for them.³ Although breast cancer screening recommendations may vary between organizations, each woman should be aware of her personal risk for breast cancer and decide, with their health care provider, when to start screening.

In 2019, an estimated 83.3% of females 50 to 74 years of age received breast cancer screening within the past two years (Figure 1), surpassing the Healthy People 2020 objective of 81.1%.⁴ However, some disparities were seen. Those individuals who reported that they do not have a regular health care provider were significantly less likely to have received a mammogram within the past two years (65.5%) compared to those reporting that they have a regular health care provider (85.0%). Those who reported that they do not have health insurance were also less likely to report having received a mammogram within the past two years (76.7%) compared to respondents who said they have health insurance (83.7%) (Figure 2).

Of those who reported not having received a mammogram within the past two years, 92.2% (an estimated 368,400 females) were insured and 83.4% (an estimated 331,900 females) had a regular health care provider (data not shown). To further increase breast cancer screening rates in New York, there is a need to sustain programs that provide screening to those without health insurance and enhance state and local efforts to promote screening and better engage populations that have access to health care.

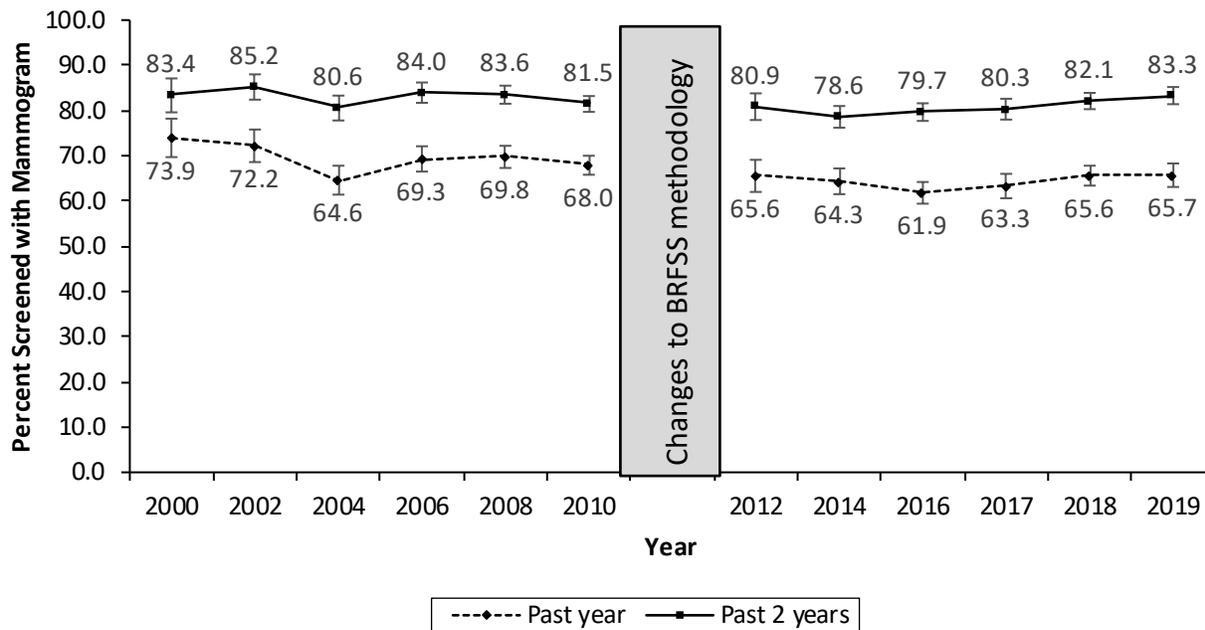
BRFSS Questions

1. A mammogram is an x-ray of each breast to look for breast cancer. Have you ever had a mammogram?

[If “yes”]

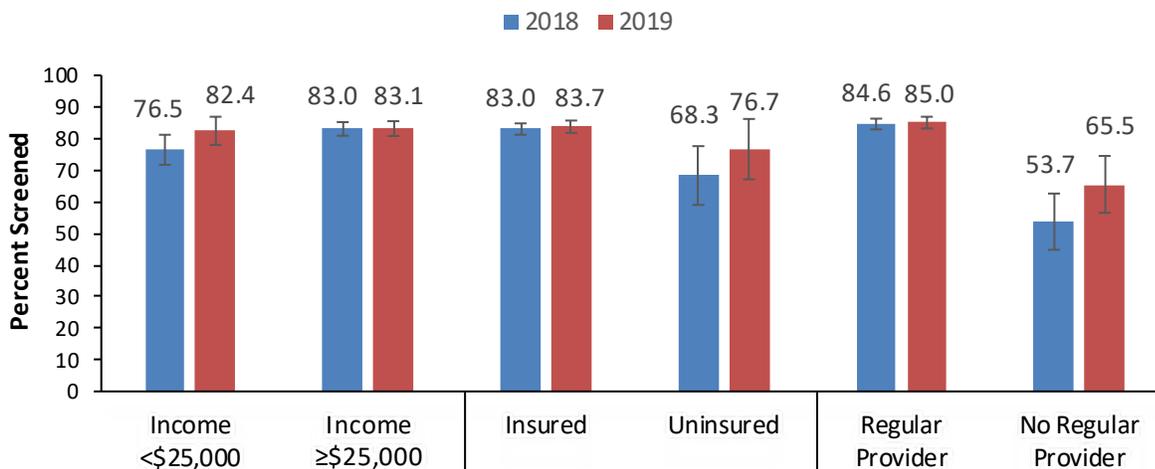
2. How long has it been since you had your last mammogram?

Figure 1. History of mammogram (within past year, within past 2 years) as reported by New York State females 50 to 74 years of age, by BRFSS survey year from 2000 to 2019



*Data after 2010 are not comparable to prior years because of changes to the BRFSS methods in 2011. See the following link for more information on these changes: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6122a3.htm?s_cid=mm6122a3_w
 Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 2. Percent of New York State females 50 to 74 years of age, reporting mammography screening within the past 2 years, by income, insurance, and regular health care provider status, BRFSS 2018 and 2019 survey years



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Table 1. History of mammogram (ever, within past year, within past 2 years) as reported by New York State females 50 to 74 years of age, by selected characteristics, BRFSS 2019 survey

	Estimated population size ^a	Mammogram history					
		Ever		Within past year		Within past 2 years	
		% ^b	95% CI ^b	% ^b	95% CI ^b	% ^b	95% CI ^b
Total NYS [N=3,626]	2,938	95.7	94.5-96.9	65.7	63.1-68.3	83.3	81.4-85.2
Age Group							
50-64	1,951	94.7	93.1-96.3	64.0	60.7-67.4	82.7	80.3-85.2
65-74	987	97.6	96.1-99.0	69.0	65.2-72.7	84.4	81.5-87.2
Race/Ethnicity							
White non-Hispanic	1,780	95.9	94.6-97.1	66.0	63.3-68.7	81.0	78.7-83.3
Black non-Hispanic	391	97.6	95.3-99.8	72.1	65.6-78.5	89.5	85.3-93.7
Hispanic	399	97.3	94.7-99.9	68.8	60.9-76.8	90.3	85.6-95.1
Other non-Hispanic	276	90.6	83.1-98.1	55.8	42.3-69.3	82.3	73.5-91.2
Annual household income							
< \$25,000	603	93.4	90.1-96.8	59.5	53.2-65.8	82.4	78.0-86.9
\$25,000 - <\$50,000	429	96.6	94.7-98.6	62.3	56.2-68.4	81.8	77.3-86.3
≥ \$50,000	1,170	96.8	95.3-98.3	67.7	63.9-71.5	83.6	80.8-86.4
Missing ^c	736	95.0	92.0-97.9	70.4	65.1-75.8	84.5	80.3-88.8
Educational attainment							
Less than high school	391	95.1	91.4-98.8	67.8	57.7-77.8	89.4	84.1-94.6
High school or GED	717	93.8	90.9-96.8	65.8	60.9-70.8	81.1	77.0-85.2
Some post-high school	802	94.6	92.0-97.1	63.3	58.7-68.0	80.3	76.4-84.2
College graduate	1,016	97.9	96.7-99.1	67.2	63.2-71.1	84.9	82.3-87.6
Primary health care coverage							
Private insurance	1,425	96.2	94.7-97.7	67.6	64.0-71.1	83.9	81.3-86.5
Medicare	770	95.5	92.8-98.1	66.6	62.1-71.1	82.8	79.1-86.4
Medicaid	361	95.7	92.5-98.8	58.0	49.1-66.8	85.0	79.4-90.5
Other insurance	123	96.5	93.3-99.7	72.3	61.3-83.2	83.4	74.5-92.4
No insurance	179	92.7	87.5-97.9	58.2	45.6-70.9	76.6	67.1-86.2
Regular health care provider							
Yes	2,676	96.8	95.7-97.8	67.7	65.0-70.3	85.0	83.2-86.9
No	246	85.6	78.5-92.7	47.0	37.5-56.5	65.5	56.5-74.5
Disability^d							
Yes	922	94.7	92.3-97.1	61.0	56.0-65.9	82.1	78.5-85.6
No	1,811	96.1	94.8-97.5	68.0	65.0-71.0	83.8	81.6-86.1
Residence							
New York City (NYC)	1,150	95.0	92.6-97.3	64.5	59.4-69.6	84.2	80.7-87.6
NYS excluding NYC	1,788	96.1	94.9-97.4	66.5	63.8-69.2	82.7	80.5-84.9

^a Estimated population size based on weighted frequencies from BRFSS, in thousands. Excludes individuals with missing data on each characteristic of interest.

^b %=Percentage; 95% CI=Confidence Interval. Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

^c "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

^d Based on report of at least one of the following disabilities: cognitive, ambulatory, vision, hearing, self-care, or independent living.

References

1. Cancer Incidence and Mortality for New York State, 2014-2018. New York State Cancer Registry. New York State Department of Health, revised Mar. 2021. Available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/vol1/v1rnys.htm>
2. NYS Cancer Registry and Cancer Statistics, New York State, 2014-2018. New York State Cancer Registry. New York Department of Health, revised Mar. 2021. Available at <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/cancer/registry/>
3. Screening for Breast Cancer: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement, Rockville, MD, updated in Jan. 2016. Available at <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recommendation/breast-cancer-screening>
4. HealthyPeople.gov, 2020 Topics and Objectives: Cancer. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, updated Jun. 2021. Available at <http://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/objectiveslist.aspx?topicId=5>

Program Contributions

New York State Department of Health
Bureau of Chronic Disease Evaluation and Research
Bureau of Cancer Prevention and Control

Order Information

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